



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:
NABIL RIZKALLA, ET AL

Docket: SD-217A

Serial Number: 10/714,378

Group Art Unit: 1626

Filed: November 10, 2003

Examiner: TAOFIQ A. SOLOLA

For: OXIDATION PROCESS AND CATALYST

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, the applicants assert that the claims are patentable because no prior art shows or suggests a process for the molecular oxidation of ethylene with a solid particulate oxidation catalyst to form ethylene oxide, the improvement which comprises oxidizing the ethylene by contact with an admixture of a solid particulate oxidation catalyst and a solid particulate inert which has been treated with an alkali metal salt.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 10, 2005